



Newcastle Community Association

ATTACHMENT 9

NCA
Post Office Box 777
Newcastle, CA 95658

January 8, 2011

Officers:

Cathie Cordova
President
916-663-2783

Leslie Gray
Vice President
916-663-1554

Jerry Mohlenbrok
Treasurer
916-663-4822

Sheri Barros
Secretary
916-663-9163

Wilfred Wong, Director
Auburn Community Development Department
1225 Lincoln Way, Room 3
Auburn, CA 95603

Dear Mr. Wong:

Our community, the Newcastle/Ophir area, has been following the progress of the proposed Baltimore Ravine Project. We understand that this project will be within the Auburn city limits, but it will have a great impact on the neighboring communities of Newcastle and Ophir. We believe that the City of Auburn's Planning Department, Planning Commission and City Council need to be aware of and address these concerns as this project moves through the system for approvals and possible implementation.

The only two traffic exits from this large residential and commercial development will greatly impact Indian Hill Road, which includes part of Newcastle, and Ophir Road which will impact both Newcastle and Ophir. There was a fatal accident at the Indian Hill Road and Hoyer Lane intersection in 2001, a fatal motorcycle accident on Indian Hill Road and Newcastle Road in 2010 and numerous ongoing close calls and smaller non-injury accidents. Traffic moves very fast along this corridor and there are blind curves, which makes entering and exiting this road treacherous to all.

Both the City and County recognize that parts of Indian Hill Road are very dangerous. Adding more traffic to this road without addressing these problems is irresponsible planning and will create a daily hazard to the residents of the Auburn, Newcastle and Ophir areas. Further, Placer County has a proposed project for a concrete batch plant on Ophir Road. Werner Road, an exit from the Baltimore Ravine project will greatly increase the traffic on Ophir Road which will merge with the heavy truck traffic from the batch plant if it is approved by Placer County.

We believe all these elements must be taken into consideration. The City of Auburn's numerous developments over the years and now the proposed Baltimore Ravine project have added or will add considerable traffic and major hazards to Placer County roads. It is time for the County and the City to work together. We believe a work group, representing the City Council, the Placer County Board of Supervisors, the Placer County Public Works Department, the developer and a citizen representative should sit down together, discuss the problems, identify the solutions and identify a funding source to fund the changes to create safe driving conditions on these vital area roadways.

Good planning and good solutions now will provide future safe travel for Auburn, Newcastle and Ophir residents as well as the many visitors that enjoy coming to our area.

Thank you for your attention and we ask that you please resolve this dangerous problem for all your constituents and visitors to our area. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathie Cordova". The script is cursive and fluid.

Cathie Cordova, President
Newcastle Community Association

cc: Supervisor Jim Holmes, Placer County
Mayor Bill Kirby, City of Auburn
✓ Auburn Planning Commission
Placer County Public Works Department
Adrienne L. Graham, AICP Planner
Newcastle Ophir Municipal Advisory Council